

2025

IMPACT REPORT



EST. 2006

MOTHERS' MILK BANK NORTHEAST

Filling little bellies. Fueling big milestones.

Approx.

22,000

**BABIES
NOURISHED
IN 2025**



WE ARE MOTHERS' MILK BANK NORTHEAST

WHY WE EXIST

For nearly twenty years, we have supported family and community health by expanding equitable access to safe pasteurized donor human milk.

Our work is rooted in a simple belief: that every baby deserves the chance to grow and thrive.

FULFILLING OUR MISSION

Mothers' Milk Bank Northeast is one of the nation's largest accredited nonprofit milk banks. Powered by community, last year we served more families and practitioners than ever before.

In 2025 we:

- Delivered **203,338** bottles of donor milk
- Fed approximately **22,000** babies — double the number served in 2022
- Partnered with a record **1,604** milk donors
- Increased subsidized milk support by **65%** in just two years

Just like our babies, we are growing!

MEETING THE RISING NEED

Prematurity is on the rise, and demand for donor milk is growing alongside it. 10% of babies in the U.S. are born early, and nearly 400,000 require care in neonatal intensive care units (NICUs) each year.

For these babies, donor milk is more than nutrition: it's protection from life-threatening complications.

More than 90% of U.S. hospital NICUs rely on accredited milk banks to care for their tiniest patients.

By strengthening our milk bank today, we'll be ready tomorrow for the next baby who needs us.



10% OF BABIES IN THE U.S. ARE BORN PREMATURELY.

*for these tiny fighters,
donor milk can be lifesaving*



116

HOSPITAL UNITS AND OUTPATIENT DISPENSARIES SERVED.

AT A GLANCE

2024	VS	2025
1,291	MILK DONORS	1,604
17,000	BABIES NOURISHED	22,000

THE GIVING CYCLE

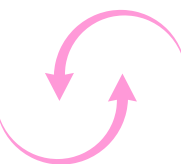
One family gives. Another receives.

Last year, just over 200,000 bottles of safe, reliable donor milk reached babies and families across the Northeast. That support extended to more than 100 hospitals and thousands of homes, providing critical nourishment when it was needed most. This care was made possible by the generosity of our community.



Lauren

"IT WAS A LIFELINE WHEN I REALLY NEEDED ONE."



For most families, donor milk arrives at a moment of need, when mom's own milk is not available or medical complications arise.

Each bottle provides nourishment, protection, and something harder to measure: reassurance.

Lauren still remembers the relief she felt when donor milk was offered for her baby in the NICU, describing it simply as "a lifeline."

Behind every bottle of donor milk is a donor like Kaleigh, who found a renewed sense of empowerment in giving after what she describes as a "rocky start" with her son Declan, who also required NICU care.

Kaleigh and Lauren have never met, but together they reflect the cycle of care that makes milk banking possible.

One family gives. Another receives. Both are changed.



Kaleigh

"DONATING MADE ME FEEL EMPOWERED AGAIN."

Safe, lifesaving milk delivered to families and hospitals

Every batch independently tested for bacteria

Milk pasteurized to meet rigorous safety standards

Milk analyzed and pooled for optimum nutrition

Donations carefully documented for safety

Approved donors ship milk to Mothers' Milk Bank Northeast

Donors medically screened for safety and eligibility

Education on donor milk as a vital resource

FROM DONOR TO NICU

Our 8 Step Process



MORE THAN 90% OF US HOSPITAL NICUS RELY ON DONOR MILK

DRIVEN BY SCIENCE:

The Human Milk Difference

Beyond the emotional support described by families, donor milk delivers measurable, research-backed health benefits.

A PROVEN MEDICAL INTERVENTION

While an exclusive human milk diet benefits all babies, for those born prematurely, it can be lifesaving.

Necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC), a severe intestinal condition, is the leading cause of death among preterm infants between two weeks and two months of age.

Research shows that an exclusive human milk diet reduces the risk of NEC by more than 50%.

When a mother's own milk isn't available, donor milk is the only proven alternative shown to provide this protection, making access to this resource critical to care in the NICU.

SUPPORTING INFANT & MATERNAL HEALTH

An investment in nonprofit donor milk banks is an investment in public health.

Donor milk increasingly serves as a bridge to breastfeeding in the earliest days. Used instead of formula, it helps families overcome obstacles and supports breastfeeding success, with proven benefits for infants and mothers.

For babies, breastfeeding is associated with:

- Reduced risk of SIDS, asthma, diabetes, and leukemia
- Improved neurodevelopmental outcomes

For mothers, breastfeeding is associated with:

- Reduced risk of certain cancers, and type 2 diabetes

"AS A NEONATOLOGIST CARING FOR PREMATURE BABIES, I SEE THE VITAL IMPORTANCE OF HUMAN MILK. DONOR MILK HAS TRANSFORMED OUR ABILITY TO PROTECT INFANT HEALTH WHEN A MOTHER'S OWN MILK IS NOT AVAILABLE."

DR. GINA M. TRACHIMOWICZ

up 20% since 2024



677

FAMILIES RECEIVED
SUBSIDIZED DONOR
MILK THROUGH OUR
COMPASSION FUND

1 OZ OF DONOR MILK

=

UP TO 3 FEEDINGS FOR
OUR TINIEST RECIPIENTS



CARE BEYOND THE CLINICAL

For nearly twenty years, our work has been shaped by science, medical expertise, and the lived experiences of families.

We're working every day to create a future where safe donor milk is within reach for every baby who needs it.

EXPANDING THE COMPASSION FUND

For some families, access to donor milk is shaped by more than medical need alone.

The Compassion Fund exists to remove financial barriers to essential care.

It provides donor milk for infants with complex medical needs and expands access to short-term donor milk as a bridge to breastfeeding.

In 2025, the fund expanded to better support families navigating maternal loss or cancer treatment — a reflection of our belief that care must meet families where they are.

That expansion was shaped in part by our outgoing Board Chair, Mark Rosen, after he met a widowed father collecting donor milk for his newborn following the loss of his wife during childbirth.



A LEGACY OF CARE

Finding Meaning in Giving

Many families come to us during moments of medical uncertainty. Others arrive in moments shaped by loss.

While donating milk after the loss of a beloved pregnancy or infant isn't right for every parent, for some it brings comfort and meaning — a way to nourish another baby while honoring their own child.

Families considering this path are supported by our Donor Screening & Engagement team, who provide specialized guidance grounded in compassion.

“HOW COULD I NOT DONATE IT? I CREATED THIS MILK WITH TEDDY. IT'S SO SPECIAL. AFTER LOSING HIM, I ONLY WANT TO DO THINGS THAT MATTER, AND THIS MATTERS.”

— MAYA, TEDDY'S MOM AND MILK DONOR

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT EVERY **\$1** SPENT ON DONOR MILK RESULTS IN UP TO **\$37** IN HEALTH CARE SAVINGS

\$500,000

2025: A RECORD YEAR

Philanthropic support reached a record **\$500,000**.

A transformative **\$150,000** anonymous grant helped make this milestone a reality.



our change-makers

KEY INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORTERS

CATHOLIC HEALTH FOUNDATION OF GREATER BOSTON
DAVID CLARK COMPANY
THE ARIA COVEY FOUNDATION
CRANE CHARITABLE FUNDS
DAVIS FAMILY FDN, EST. PHYLLIS AND HALSEY DAVIS
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LIFE SCIENCE CARES
THE MIRIAM FUND/CJP
SCHRAFFT CHARITABLE TRUST
THE VILLAGE BANK
YALE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

VIEW OUR 2025 DONOR ROLL HERE:
MILKBANKNE.ORG/DONORROLL

FUELED BY GENEROSITY

Babies Over the Bottom Line. Always.

As a nonprofit, we're driven by mission, not margin. That's the nonprofit difference, and it allows us to serve families with excellence in the moments that matter most.

Ensuring donor milk is safe for the tiniest and most medically fragile infants requires rigorous screening, pasteurization, testing, storage, and distribution, all guided by uncompromising standards.

Every step is essential, and carries real cost.

EVERY BOTTLE OF DONOR MILK REFLECTS A COMPLEX SYSTEM OF CARE.

Our work is made possible through the generosity of individuals, foundations, corporate partners, and charity athletes. Together, this community fuels our ability to expand access to safe donor human milk, ensuring that more hospitals and families can rely on this life-saving resource in the years ahead.

Because when demand grows, so must we.

*we're making a splash
for babies in need*

6

HIGH-VISIBILITY MEDIA FEATURES
(ACROSS 11 STATES)

24K

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIBERS REACHED
(2X GROWTH IN FOUR YEARS)

A YEAR OF VISIBILITY

When Mission Meets Momentum

This work began nearly twenty years ago as a small network of milk donors, clinicians, and families.

Today, it has grown into a powerful community dedicated to ensuring fragile infants receive the care they need to grow and thrive.

Driven by science and fueled by generosity, our work nourishes babies while advancing awareness of milk banking.

VOICES CARRY

Last year, that commitment reached far beyond our Boston roots. Media coverage across the 11 states we serve brought donor milk into the broader public conversation.

A defining moment in 2025 was a seven-page feature in The Boston Globe's special Health Equity edition.

The nationally recognized publication offered readers a powerful glimpse into the often invisible village behind every bottle of donor milk.

Each story strengthens understanding and makes it easier for families and clinicians to say yes to donor milk when it matters most.

Nearly twenty years in, donor milk and the community behind it are no longer invisible.

"YOU ELEVATE VOICES AND EXPERIENCES SO PEOPLE UNDERSTAND WHY THIS MATTERS AND HOW DONOR MILK HELPS BABIES. THIS IS A COMMUNITY THAT KNOWS IT'S ABOUT SO MUCH MORE THAN MILK."

— KATIE, RECIPIENT PARENT & MILK DONOR





SCAN TO LEARN
MILKBANKNE.ORG



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For nearly 20 years,
generosity has fueled our
mission. Today, the need
continues, and so will we.
Deborah C. Youngblood, CEO

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*our supporters give
with confidence*

